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Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

**Developments in the field of information and
telecommunications in the context of international security**

**Advancing responsible State behaviour in cyberspace in the
context of international security**

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/73/L.37

**Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and
Budgetary Questions**

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/73/9) in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/73/L.37 on advancing responsible State behaviour in cyberspace in the context of international security. During its consideration of the statement, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 7 December 2018.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of draft resolution A/C.1/73/L.37, the General Assembly would, inter alia:

(a) Request the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts, to be established in 2019 on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, to continue to study possible cooperative measures to address existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security, as well as how international law applies to the use of information and communications technologies by States, and to submit a report on the results of the study, to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session;

(b) Request the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, through existing resources and voluntary contributions, on behalf of the members of the group of governmental experts, to collaborate with relevant regional organizations to



convene a series of consultations to share views on the issues within the mandate of the group in advance of its sessions;

(c) Request the Chair of the group of governmental experts to organize two two-day informal consultative meetings, which will be open-ended so that all Member States can engage in interactive discussions and share their views, which the Chair shall convey to the group of governmental experts for consideration.

3. The statement of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/73/9) provides further information on: (a) activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented in 2019, 2020 and 2021 (*ibid.*, paras. 4 and 5); (b) modifications required in the programme of work and under section 4, Disarmament, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 (*ibid.*, para. 4, including an amendment to table 4.2.2 under subprogramme 4: Information and outreach); and (c) the financial implications of the proposals in 2019, 2020 and 2021 for conference-servicing and non-conferencing requirements (*ibid.*, paras. 8–13).

II. Resource requirements

4. For 2019, the implementation of the proposed requests would entail the following activities and resource requirements:

(a) An amount of \$221,000 for non-recurrent conference servicing requirements under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, consisting of: (i) meetings services (\$107,800) for one five-day session (10 meetings) of the group of governmental experts in New York and one two-day session (4 meetings) for informal consultative meetings, both with interpretation in the six official languages; and (ii) documentation services (\$113,200) for six pre-session documents (7,600 words), eight in-session documents (16,000 words) and two post-session documents (11,000 words) in the six official languages (see A/C.5/73/9 paras. 4 and 5).

(b) An amount of \$206,700 for non-conference servicing requirements under section 4, Disarmament, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 to provide for requirements under consultants (\$17,300) and ad hoc expert groups (\$189,400) (*ibid.*, para. 11).

5. The statement of the Secretary-General indicates that the requirements in 2019 for conference services (see para. 4 (a) above) would be met from within existing resources. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that resources previously allocated to conference services in Geneva in support of meetings of the human rights treaty bodies may be redirected to meet the cost of implementing the activities requested in operative paragraphs 3 and 5 of the draft resolution as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) was unable to make full use of its meeting entitlements in 2018. The Committee was further informed that, as at 31 October 2018, actual expenditures incurred for non-post resources under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 amounted to 38.5 per cent of the appropriation, below the targeted rate of 41.7 per cent of the appropriation (see A/73/493, annex III).

6. With regard to requirements for non-conference servicing requirements under section 4, Disarmament (see para. 4 (b) above), the statement of the Secretary-General indicates that no provisions have been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for the implementation of the activities requested in operative paragraphs 3 and 5 of the draft resolution, and that it is not possible to absorb those

additional resource requirements. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 30 November 2018, expenditures incurred under section 4, Disarmament, totalled \$11,537,300, representing 47.4 per cent of the total appropriation for the biennium 2018–2019.

7. The statement of the Secretary-General further indicates that the additional requirements in support of the meetings of the group of governmental experts in 2020 and 2021 (A/C.5/73/9, table 3), would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budgets for the respective periods.

8. Under the terms of operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, through existing resources and voluntary contributions, on behalf of the members of the group of governmental experts, to collaborate with relevant regional organizations and to convene a series of consultations to share views on the issues within the mandate of the group in advance of its sessions (see also para. 2 (b) above). **The Advisory Committee encourages the Secretary-General to pursue efforts to raise voluntary contributions for this purpose.**

III. Conclusion

9. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.1/73/L.37, additional resource requirements in the amount of \$206,700 for 2019 would arise under section 4, Disarmament, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019. The amount of \$206,700 would require an additional appropriation for the biennium 2018–2019, to be approved by the Assembly, and, as such, would represent a charge against the contingency fund.**